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be grown. Thus with the stimulus originally imparted by the Korean war boom, cotton, which had long been grown in Syria but on a small scale, has developed into one of the country's most valuable crops.

Manufacturing has expanded rapidly in the postwar period. Although the original impulse was given by the wartime shortage of manufactured goods, new factories were not for the most part established until after the war. Among the new modern factories built since then are six spinning and weaving mills, a considerable number of cotton ginneries, a dyeing plant, six vegetable oil mills, a glass factory, a cement plant and a sugar factory. The total amount of paid-up capital of manufacturing enterprises established in corporate form since the end of the war is in the neighborhood of £S 80 million. Since enterprises generally refuse to disclose their output, statistical measurement of the increase in production is extremely difficult. Very rough estimates indicate that about 9,000-10,000 metric tons of cotton and rayon yarn were produced in 1953 as compared with probably less than 1,000 tons in prewar years. The output of cloth was about 14,000 to 16,000 tons, or more than 100 million meters, as compared with perhaps 15 million meters before the war. The production of vegetable oils (other than olive oil), which was negligible before the war, amounted to around 10,000 tons, and the output of soap, at a level of about 9,000 tons, was almost three times the prewar estimate. Cement production, which was less than 75,000 tons before the war, amounted to 223,639 tons in 1953. The output of cigarettes was about four times, and that of matches three times, that of prewar years.

331 The expansion of agriculture and industry has in turn stimulated commerce, transport and construction. The construction industry in particular has witnessed a postwar boom which lifted the volume of building to a level probably twice as high as that in the years immediately preceding the war. Increasing prosperity, together with the wartime drop in building, generated a large volume of housing construction in all major cities.

The increase in national income since before the war has undoubtedly been very great; in real terms it may well be almost double. Unfortunately the fragmentary nature and unreliability of statistical data make even approximate estimates of national income extremely difficult. For the postwar years an unofficial estimate has been made only for 1950, when national income was put at £S 1,250 million. Some very tentative calculations made by the mission indicate that this estimate may well be too conservative. These calculations point to a rise in national income from